

SECRETMEMORANDUM

To: G - Mr. Merchant

From: EUR - Ivan B. White *IBW*

Subject: Statement of Basic Issues on U.S. Reductions in Europe

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

In our meeting last Thursday, October 8, you requested a very brief statement of the basic issues which might be used as the basis for a possible NSC discussion. There is attached such a statement, with major emphasis placed on the effects on our posture vis-a-vis the Soviets.

I feel that a full-dress NSC debate at this particular time would probably not be advantageous, although it might prove useful at some later stage. I think it would be preferable if the Secretary would first discuss these basic issues with the President, after which we could decide whether an NSC discussion would be desirable.

Attachment:

Statement of Basic Issues

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Authority NND 887424
By ERK NARA, Date 2/14/90

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STATEMENT OF BASIC ISSUES

Budget limitations are threatening to result in substantial reductions in U.S. NATO-committed forces, which would be carried out very soon. We are also faced with drastic curtailment in the MAP program for NATO, without which necessary minimum NATO defense requirements cannot be met.

These steps, if taken, will come to the attention of our Allies in the very near future and at a time when there is a "false detente" atmosphere in the Free World. The effect is likely to be a general relaxation in the Free World defense posture and an increased tendency on the part of our Allies to seek an accommodation with the Soviets. The following basic issues are therefore raised:

1. How will this affect our posture in the approaching forthcoming negotiations on disarmament?
2. How will it affect our position in negotiating a Berlin settlement?

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